

C *apital City Capers*



The News Organ of the Capital City Squares
A Member Club of the IAGSDC

Fall Madness Over?

George and the Board of Directors of Capital City Squares have weathered a lot in the last two or three months, what with our financial crisis, finding a place for the New Class to dance, and the rigors of incorporating and applying for tax-exempt status. But a new calm is beginning settle over us as the hard work and frustration seem to be paying off.

Our new class has started (a month late, but is has started!). They are 29 people strong, and they are getting ready to elect a rep and an alternate to the Board. Robin is very ably putting them through their paces (paces, George, paces), and they seem to be learning the calls enthusiastically.

Our new home, Theodore Judah School, provides a better dancing environment than William Land School did, but we have a few sound problems to work out.

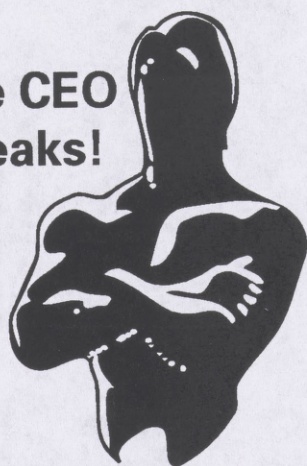
And our applications for incorporation and tax-exempt status are working their inexorable ways through the slough of despond that is our state government. Soon our financial situation will be a concern rather than a crisis.

So as we head toward Thanksgiving and the Holidays, we can hold our heads up high, knowing we have fought (and are still fighting) the good fight. Many thanks to George and the Board, who led us, our Club members, who supported us, and our new class, who understood and had patience.

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The CEO Speaks!



[Don' cha wish the CEO matched the physique above? He'd sure like to!]

Greetings members! It is really exciting to me to see all you new people returning each week, as well as all the familiar faces from previous years. This year seems to be coming together very nicely, now that a few of the hurdles that showed up last month have ben leaped or beaten flat. It looks like we're gonna have another fun year of dancing, of getting to know new people, of fun, Fun, FUN!

Bear in mind that it ain't all smooth sailin' jes' yet. We've still not heard on the tax-exempt status of the Club—this means higher prices for rental. While this does not cause a tragedy quite yet, it does mean careful (e.g. panic!) budgeting for a while yet. A number of people have paid for several months (thank you!) and a few for the year (THANK YOU!) and while this does give us a "buffer," it also gives a false "sense of security" in that this sudden influx of cash now may mean a shortage later. Why am I mentioning this? Numerous reasons, but mainly because it's time to begin to think

about methods of raising funds. What would each of us be willing to work on should the need arise? We don't need to do this now; we do need to **think** about it. Thanks!

For the past coupla years, Capital City Squares has, as a charitable/social contribution, donated several hundred dollars to the Sacramento Children's Receiving Home in December. We would like to continue this. The reason for cash in lieu of material goods (which the membership has also given, individually, but collected at Club night) is that discussions with the Home indicate that availability of cash has enabled them to fill gaps in the normal "goods" contributions. I bring this up because we are going to begin "50/50" raffles soon, with the proceeds going to the Home (between now and the December Hoedown). So bring a little extra cash (someone will get a goodly portion of it back each week) and clutches (purses) that open easily. A whole lotta peopled will benefit from it. Thanks.

What else is goin' on this month? Well, we are in the process of looking at bringing in an occasional guest caller again this year. Not only is it a great opportunity for all of us to get some exposure (uh...) to other styles and techniques of calling, but it also gives Robin and Kris much needed (and deserved!) breaks. As this progresses, we'll let ya'll know what's happening. We'll attempt to do this about once a month (budget willing...).

Foggy City Dancers' Anniversary Dance was November 2nd. For those who went, you know it was a lot of fun. Eric Hennerlau (the

caller) kept things moving, and the many people there had a great, great time. Thanks, FCD, for a wonderful evening!

Don't forget Western Star Dancers' Dance on November 23rd. While I have little info on this as yet, I believe it's that Club Class-level dance, and since WSD's class and ours tend to run parallel, it's bound to be a great opportunity for our newest members to get some fun and useful experience! Make plans to get there—we'll fill in the details as we get them.

If you've got a hankerin' to go to Vancouver, BC, and need need an excuse, here's a great one: Squares Across the Border is having its 8th Anniversary Fly-In over (our) Thanksgiving Weekend, November 29th to December 1st. It's bound to be fun (after all, they did such a wonderful job on their convention!).

December 7—"Silver Belles and Beaus" Capital City Squares' Workshops and Hoedown. It's our first dance (and all-day-do) of the season. It's a great opportunity to work on those steps you've been learning during the day and to get some real dancing fun in the evening! We'll update you on this. It is a potluck as well (be aware that since we aren't the Boy Scouts, we can't use the kitchen—not that the auditorium has a kitchen—but electrical outlets will be available...). See the flyer herein. Plan to be here!

El Camino Reelers' Anniversary Dance in Palo Alto is hot on the heels of our dance—December

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October Board Minutes

September 25, 1991

The meeting was underway at 7:10 PM. Present were George, Rick C., Cindy, Kris, Bill, Michael, Rick A., Rich, Fred, Mark, and the Board mascot, Heidi.

- Upon our arrival, George provided us with a club expense analysis and budget projection prepared by David Levy. Bill provided the Sept.-Oct. newsletter including the revised / corrected bylaws for the Club. Changes are being made in preparation for submittal to the Franchise Tax Board and Secretary of State in order to become incorporated.

- The Board voted to approve the projected changes in dues and present them to the Club. Bill's article in the Sept-Oct newsletter explains many of the reasons for the necessary increase in dues and fees. He has also provided a great deal of important info that was covered at the Board meeting. Please, read the newsletter!

- Bill and Michael offered to host a meeting in their home for dancers interested in being a part of Prime 8's (the Advanced level club) to discuss insurance, dues, and topics related to combining the two clubs for insurance and incorporation purposes.

- Rick A. reported that we have \$195.00 in the treasury.

- We discussed the purchase of a "Guest Book" for visitors to sign when attending hoedowns.

- Fred brought yummy pizza, and we all pigged out. Thanks, Fred!!

The next Board meeting will be October 30th at 7 PM at Bill and Michael's in Citrus Heights. If you want to see your Board of Directors in action... be there. Your input, ideas, and bodies [especially your bodies] are always welcome.

Submitted by

ß Mark Smithson, Secretary

ALSO: I am looking for a roommate to share my 4 bedroom, 2 bath home in Citrus Heights. It has a pool (BRRR!) and a cozy fireplace. Call Mark for details: 723-7311.

November Board Minutes

October 30, 1991

Board type folks and good friends of Board type folks gathered together at Bill and Michael's estate in glamorous Citrus Heights. All were awaiting the official start of the meeting, signified by the arrival of our CEO. George made his entrance at 7:15 and festivities were underway. Present were Kris, Cindy, David L., Kenric, Rick A., Fred, Bill, Michael, Rick C., and George.

- Our first official club topic was the little circle name badges for the new dancers. Cindy will be compiling a list of names to

give to David L., who will do the artwork and layout. Then Cindy and the kids in the "Just Say No" club at school will do the final assembly.

- George says that there is no news from Franchise Tax Board regarding our incorporation and tax exempt status, so we will be

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Capital City Capers

**The News Organ of the
Capital City Squares
P.O. Box 19986
Sacramento, CA
95819-0986**

Editor, Bill McCrory

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the CCS Board

**Class/Club Dues:
\$90 a year: \$10 a month
Due on the 15th of the month
Newsletter only: \$12 a year**

Capital City Squares Board of Directors

**George Fox, CEO
Mark Smithson, Secretary
Rick Arts, Treasurer
Kenric Brown,
History Liaison & Parties
David Levy, Contracts
Bob Stahmer, New Class Rep.
Kris Corbridge, Plus Class
Instructor
Robin Alpenglow, MS Class
Instructor**

**Joy TeSelle & Margaret Coelho
Club History**

The CEO Speaks!
Continued From Page 2

14th. It's about the last opportunity of the calendar year, and ECR folks are LOTS of fun. The drive may seem a bit far from her, but it'll be well worth it! Head on over!!

New Class: Keep in mind that the time approaches to choose your representative and alternate to the Board! Look around—NOMINATE—yourself or another.

Well, that's about it for now. I do appreciate your bearing with us while we've been trying to settle things. Please keep in mind that your input is always important! It's good to see you, great to dance with you. Thanks.

See ya Dancin'

☛ George Fox

November Board Minutes
Continued From Page 3

paying full rent at the school for the month of October, which comes to \$680.00. Tax exempt status would reduce this cost by \$400.00. Our treasury stands at \$1326.00, reports Rick A.

- Kris brought up the subject of bringing in guest callers, such as Harlan Kerr, on class nights. She feels that guest callers help to keep the energy level up. (It's also nice for Robin and Kris because they get a chance to dance!) There is a possibility of bringing in Andy Shore to call on either the 19th or 26th of November.

- The new class will be electing

their representative to the Board on class night, the 19th of November.

- Many of you may be asking, "What the heck is going on with this year's trip to Fife's?" George says the bottom line is this: We have put a deposit down for the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium in Guerneville for April 24th, 6 to 11 PM and the 25th from 6 to 11:30 PM. Total cost will be \$226.00, so we have some place to dance. We still need somewhere to stay for the weekend as things are still up in the air at the Woods since they had a fire and lost their liquor license. The Club may end up in smaller groups at smaller resorts, but George says we have not reached the panic mode yet.

- Western Star Dancers will be putting on a dance in San Francisco on November 23rd. It will be a mixture of class, mainstream, and plus levels, so all the new dancers can get a chance to practice what they've learned along with new class from Western Star Dancers. Personally, I find that the big dances and hoedowns are the best part of square dancing, and I encourage everyone to make the trip into SF. The caller that night will be Craig Rowe.

- December 7th will be our first hoedown of the year at Theodore Judah school. Kenric is looking for someone to take over the decorating committee, so we need a creative, ambitious volunteer or two... Kenric has been wonderful at telling people which streamer should go where, and through his talents we have had some BE-U-TI-FUL dances, but the poor girl's creativity is

drained, and we need some new blood to match crepe paper and balloon colors. Love ya Kenric!!

- CCS has in the past made a donation at Christmas to the Children's Receiving Home. Since funds will be low this year, the Board has decided to have 50/50s on class nights in an effort to raise money for the donation.

- Much was discussed regarding the poor sound quality in our new dance environment. Art and Jeff will be experimenting with carpet and wood products in an effort to dampen some of the echo.

- Changes in the bylaws will be made to include Prime 8's in our incorporation and insurance coverage. In the bylaws, Prime 8's members would be responsible for additional dues. This is something that must be presented to the Club for a vote.

- Mary Jo Semmelmayr will be moving on December 8th. A Bon Voyage party is being planned for her for Monday, November 25th, most likely at Joseph's since that is where Prime 8's are currently dancing.

The next Board meeting will be December 4th at Bill and Michael's, 7:00 PM.

See You There!

☛ Mark Smithson, Secretary

A New Frontier For American Square Dancing: I.A.G.S.D.C.

A few weeks ago, over the Memorial Day weekend, 650 square dancers—some 585 men and about 65 women—gathered at the luxurious Hilton Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach for a square dance convention. The proportion of men to women may seem strange to ASD readers, but it is no printing error, for this convention was the eighth annual gathering of the IAGSDC, the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs.

Gay square dancing got its start in the late 1970s, when a group called the South Florida Mustangs began meeting and dancing together. Over the next few years, similar groups took shape in San Francisco, Seattle, and Denver, and eventually these groups coalesced into a National Association of Gay S/D Clubs (NAGSDC). With the formation of clubs in Canada, the "national" was changed to "international" and the IAGSDC was on its way.

The organization's first national convention was held in Seattle in 1984. Currently there are some 40 IAGSDC clubs (three in Canada) dancing regularly. The principal emphasis is on Basic/Mainstream and Plus dancing, but Advanced, and even Challenge dancing, are gaining more and more adherents within the IAGSDC, with a few clubs focusing exclusively on A and C dancing.

Initially, gay square dance clubs developed by using the dance experience of a few members and whatever recorded and printed material was available. Some groups worked their way through the Plus level by stopping their records every time they came to an unfamiliar call and putting their heads together to try to decipher the description of the call in a manual. Gradually, individuals surfaced who had had some measure of calling experience, and they were able to help the fledgling dancers polish and refine their style. By the time of the first national convention in 1984, the organization was able to hire two well-known national callers, and since then some of the best known names in American and Canadian square dance calling have called either at IAGSDC conventions or special local functions.

An interesting parallel development is that enough gay square dancers—both male and female—have become interested in calling that there is now a Gay Callers Association. Calling workshops precede each national convention, and a number of young callers whose roots are in the gay square dance movement have acquired enough polish that they are now in demand for calling jobs with straight clubs.

Gay square dancing is active and high-energy, and outside callers who experience it for the first time always remark on the fabulous give-and-take between the floor and caller. For the caller, gay square dancing is a challenge of the highest order; there is no requirement to have "standard" couples, and, since there is also

no square dance attire requirement, all the visual cues of biological sex and color-coordinated couples disappear. The caller has to remember which of the men are dancing the woman's part and which of the women are dancing the man's part, but usually after a short period of adjustment, everyone has a good time.

On the other hand, since a majority of gay square dancers learn to dance both parts (they call it "becoming bi-dansual!"), they tend to be strong dancers with a good sense of position and set orientation.

Contacts between the gay S/D community and the larger straight S/D community have been developing all along at the local level. These contacts have not been without friction at times, but the joy of dancing and the shared hobby seem to overcome any initial misgivings. Many gay square dancers have taken membership in local straight clubs, and some dancers from straight clubs have discovered that they can have a lot of fun at an evening where unconventional dance roles are the rule rather than the exception.

The IAGSDC is looking forward to its 1992 convention in Albuquerque, and especially to its tenth anniversary celebration in Seattle in 1993. IAGSDC clubs are glad to welcome dancers from other clubs, be they gay or straight. Any takers?

L.T.S., Baltimore, Maryland

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[The preceding article, published in the September issue of *American Square Dance*, was written by Luis Torres, formerly of Chesapeake Squares, now relocated to Alamo City Wranglers. The IAGSDC Board of Directors request you show your support by subscribing to *A.S.D.* or by writing them to thank them for supporting us:

American Square Dance
Stan & Cathie Burdick, Publishers
and Editors
P.O. Box 488
Huron, OH 44839-0488

\$15.00 per year]

Attention: New Dancers!

This month you are going to be asked to choose from among yourselves a New Class Representative and an alternate to represent your opinions and ideas on the Board of Directors of Capital City Squares.

The Board of Directors meets at the end of each month to plan activities, discuss matters of concern to Club members, and, in general, conduct the working operations of the Club.

Get to know your fellow New Class members and nominate someone or yourself for one or both of these important positions on the Board.

From Behind the Mike

Learning to square dance can be a very rewarding experience. You meet new people, make new friends, and develop a skill that can be used throughout this country and around the world. A proficient square dancer need never be alone, never want for something to do nearly every day of the week. But learning to square dance takes time and is often quite frustrating. This frustration is understandable when you consider that you have to not only learn a countless number of maneuvers physically but also learn an entirely new vocabulary. Not only do we have to learn the names of each call (which in many cases seems strange and nonsensical in and of itself), but we must also learn the definition of that call, definitions that themselves contain words, directions, etc., which may not initially make much sense.

Constant repetition and review is necessary before these definitions become truly learned. For the most part this review is done during class time. Unfortunately that time is limited. You can greatly increase your learning and decrease your level of frustration by taking just a few minutes, 2 or 3 times between each class meeting to "think" and "study" your dancing.

Here's how:

1. Try to recall the 'names' of the calls you've learned, especially new calls added that week.

2. Check your recollection by looking in the book or at a list of teaching order to see if you came up with the right names.

3. Try to recall the "definition" of each call; include things such as Is this call done with my partner? the person I'm facing? etc? What formation is the call done from? In what formation does the call end? What is the other person or persons doing while I'm doing my part?

4. Check the book to see if you had the definition or description correct.

5. When all else fails, ask Robin or me for help.

Taking just a few minutes before class nights to think about what you have learned can make your time in class much more relaxed and fun. And isn't that really the whole point? To have fun? So take a little extra time each week and have the time of your life.

☛ Kris Corbridge,
Plus Class Instructor

[Editor's note: Kris is being quite kind by not mentioning again that Plus class members should be angeling the new dancers, but I will. Plus class squares are breaking down, not during new Plus calls but during Mainstream calls. Recent Mainstream graduates need to have Mainstream calls down solid if they are ever to learn to dance at the full Plus level. The best way to get this knowledge and practice is by helping the new class through these very same calls that are

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Coming Events

* signifies an ostensibly "straight" event

November

- 2 Foggy City Anniversary (Eric Henerlau), FCD, SF
- 8-10 "A Monumental Experience Fly-In" (Betsy Gotta, Chris Phillips, Doyle Hodge), DC Lambda Squares, Washington, DC
- 8-10 IGRA Rodeo, Dallas, TX
- 9 Dance (Vern Weese), Golden State Squares, Garden Grove, CA
- 23 WSD Dance (Craig Rowe), St. Paulus Church, SF
- 29-D/1 8th Anniversary Fly-In (Bill Eyler), Squares Across the Border, Vancouver

December

- 6-8 *"Last Chance in Las Vegas," Las Vegas, NV
- 7 "Silver Belles and Beaus," CCS Workshops and Hoedown (Jett Roberts), Sacramento, CA
- 14 Anniversary Dance, El Camino Reelers, Palo Alto, CA
- 14 *PACE Weekend (Jerry Story), East Bay, CA
- 20 Bill and Michael leave for Hawaii. Square dancing on the North American continent prohibited.

1992

January

- 5 Bill and Michael return from Hawaii—Square dancing may resume.
- 17-19 "Swing Thru Arizona/Double," Rodeo & Fly-In, Desert Valley Squares, Phoenix, AZ
- 17-19 *15th Annual January Jubilee (Anne Uebelacker, etc.), Hyatt Cherry Hill, Cherry Hill, NJ

February

- 14-16 5th Anniversary Fly-In, Tinseltown Squares, Hollywood, CA
- 14-16 Seattle Fly-in (Mike DeSisto & Johnny Preston), Puddletown Squares, Seattle, WA
- 21-23 "Scoot Back to Florida" (Bill Eyler & Chris Phillips), South Florida Mustangs, Hollywood, FL
- 22 CCS Workshops and Hoedown (Joe Kula), Sacramento, CA

March

- 13-15 10th Anniversary Celebration & Fly-In (Paul Marcum & Mike DeSisto), Western Star Dancers, San Francisco
- 27-29 L.A. Gay Rodeo
- 27-29 Alamo City Wranglers Fly-In, San Antonio, TX

April

- 10-11 *"Spring Jamboree" (Jerry Story & Terry Mosier), San Joaquin Valley Square Dancing Association, Lodi, CA
- 24-26 CCS Retreat at The Woods, Guerneville, CA

May

- 8-10 "Pass the Ocean Hon" Chesapeake Squares Fly-In (Anne Uebelacker, Glenn Matthew, & Dale Hodge) Rehoboth Beach, DE
- 30 CCS Graduation Workshops and Hoedown (Jett Roberts), Sacramento, CA

June

- 25-27 *41st National Square Dance Convention, Cincinnati, OH

July

- 3-5 "Diamonds in the Desert," 9th IAGSDC Convention, Albuquerque

October

- 2-4 3rd Advanced & Challenge Fly-In (Anne Uebelacker, Sandra Bryant, etc.) Squares Across the Border, Vancouver, BC.

November Birthdays

- 1 **Dennis Moore**
- 10 **Dell Richards**
- 15 **Jeff Barlow**
- 20 **Andrea Jackson**
- 29 **Mary Jo Semmelmayr**

Local Contacts:

CCS Capital City Squares

George (916) 447-2271

Bill (916) 969-5153

Prime 8's

Art (916) 966-1734

Del (916) 446-4396

WSD Western Star Dancers

Max (415) 431-6238

Anna (415) 621-0862

FCD Foggy City Dancers

Ken (415) 821-0417

Mike (415) 695-1376

MS Midnight Squares

Roger (415) 664-0513

Claire (415) 861-1979

ECR El Camino Reelers

Randy (415) 961-7504

*PACE

James (916) 925-4242

Nancy (415) 479-7076

From on High

First, I'd like to "thank" all of you for giving of your time, patience, and expertise to our new dancers.

Tip #1: please keep in mind that square dancing is really a series of formations set to music (kinda like marching band stuff). New dancers may not always recognize the formations. We angels need to make our moves crisp and clean (gosh, sounds like a 7-Up commercial). Quarter turns need to be exactly 90°, not 75° or 110°; half is 180°, not 270°, etc.

Squares break down when formations are not identified while progressing from one call to the next. Angels can greatly enhance the basic dancers' learning by setting good examples and by being the strong framework from which formations are readily identified. The new dancers will only be as good as the examples we set for them!

👼 Cindy Sullivan, Archangel

*From Behind the Mike
Continued From Page 6*

causing so much trouble during Plus class. During the beginners class full Mainstream tapes are played, again providing more practice and a nice warm up for the Plus class to follow. If you are the one breaking down the Plus class square and you are arriving on class nights just before the Plus class starts, don't you think you should come in early to get the practice and warm up it is so painfully obvious to others in your square that you need?]

Sacramento's Loss, The South's Gain!

Mary Jo is leaving us to become a Southern Belle! She has been an integral part of Capital City Squares and Prime 8's for many years, and we will all miss her enthusiastic, perky attitude. So we are going to have a party on Monday, November 25th, to send her off in style, and with lots of yellow rocks! Please fill out the form below and return it **with your money** to Rick Arts or Michael Foft no later than Friday November 22. Club shirts/attire are requested.

Mary Jo's Going-Away Dinner

Monday, November 25, 1991, 6:30 Drinks (No Host) 7:00 Dinner

Joseph's Town & Country

2062 Auburn Blvd

Sacramento

\$10.00 per person (Tax and Tip included)

Please indicate your dinner choice:

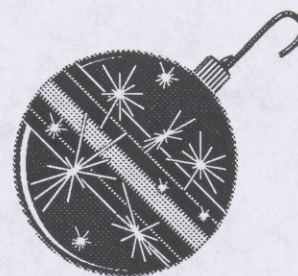
Teriyaki Chicken____Sirloin Steak____Pasta Primavera (no meat)____

Name(s)_____

Amount Enclosed_____ If paying by check, make payable to CCS.



Capital City Squares



Presents

“Silver Belles & Beaus”

Saturday, December 7, 1991

Guest Caller: Jett Roberts

Workshops: Plus 1:00 to 2:30

Mainstream: 3:00 to 4:30

Potluck: 5:30 to 6:30

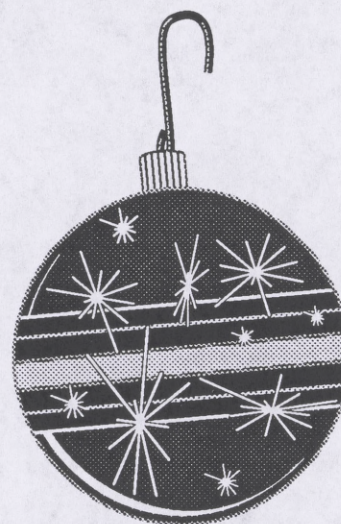
Hoedown: 7:00 to 9:30

Workshops \$4.00 each

Hoedown \$6.00

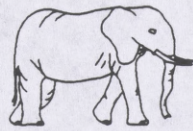
Potluck: locals bring main dish

visitors bring side or dessert

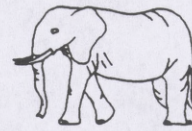


**Theodore Judah Elementary School
3919 McKinley Blvd.
Sacramento**

From the Bay Area: Take Highway 80 to Business 80, then north on Business 80 to the H Street off ramp. Take 30th Street to E Steet. Right on E Street (McKinley Blvd.) to the school just past 39th Steet.



ZOO DANCE



Saturday Nite, November 23rd



7:30 - 10:30
\$6 / \$3 Green '91



CRAIG ROWE

Calling the 1st time for Gay community



Mainstream

Plus

&

Green '91 Class Level

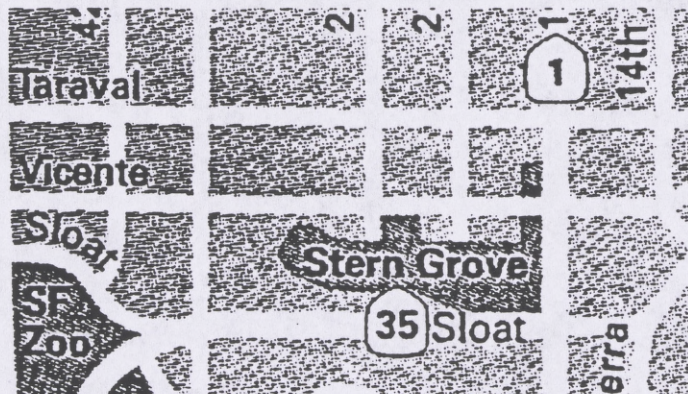


At The

Recreation Center for the Handicapped



Take Market Street up to Portola and then down to Sloat, (Note: Sloat veers off to the right at Junipero Serra) Take Sloat to Skyline and make a Left Turn onto Skyline, Then a Right Turn

into Herbst. When you turn onto Herbst, go half block and you will see on your left a complex of buildings, this is the Center, on your right is parking area, look for WSD signs to lead you to the dance hall.



ANNOUNCING

El Camino Reelers

 **Sixth** 

ANNIVERSARY DANCE

FEATURING *THE* FABULOUS

 **Bronc Wise** 

Of Sacramento, CA, Making His Gay Club Calling Debut, Calling

✦ PLUS ✦

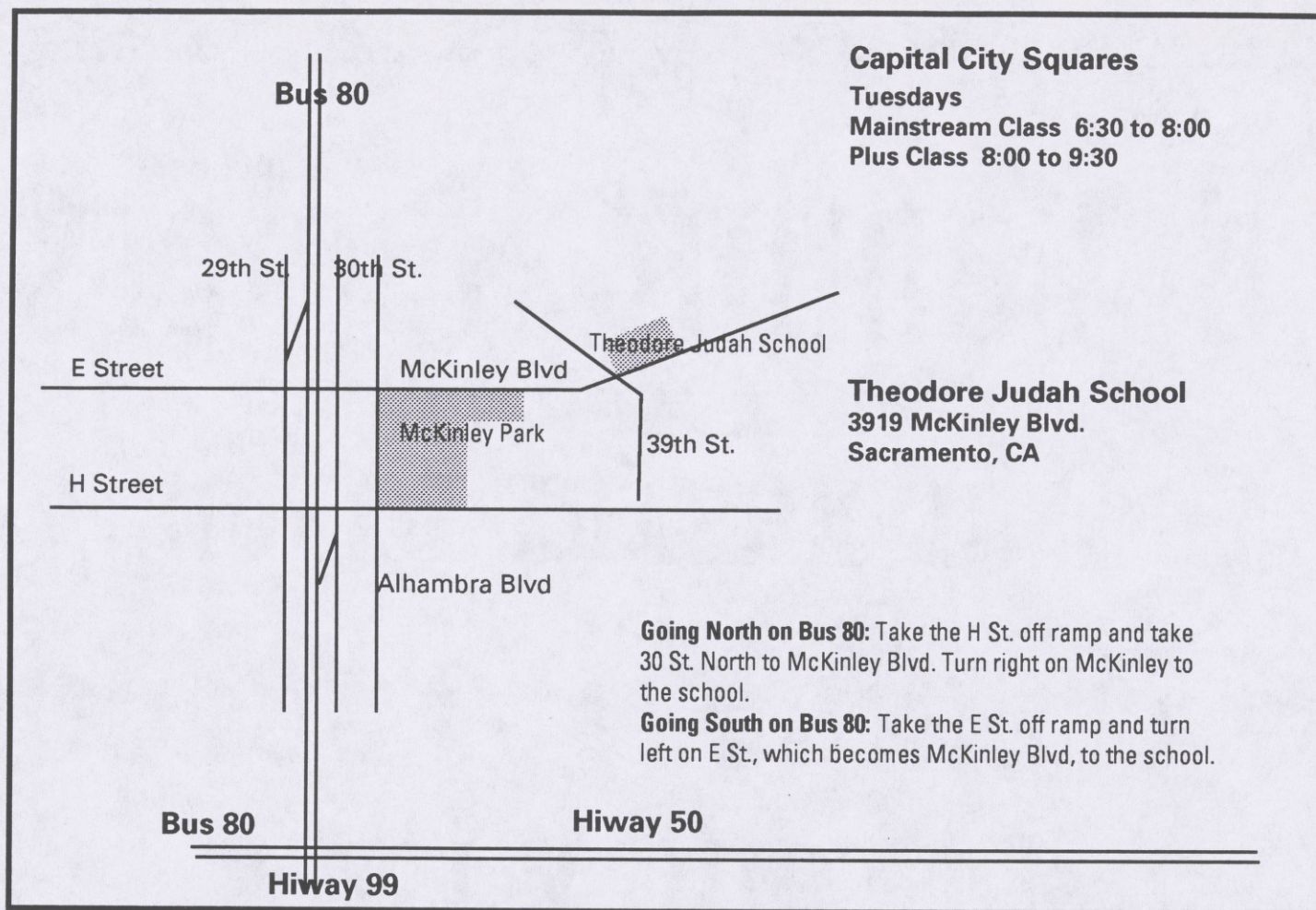
With Class Level  Advanced  Star  Tips

 Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church 

4111 Alma St, Palo Alto

 **14th  DECEMBER, 1991  8:00—11:00**

 **ONLY** \$8 In Advance, \$9 At The Door, \$4 For Class Members 



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